

informalities contained therein. None of these changes entail the addition of new matter and the application is now believed to be error free.

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that all of originally filed claims 1-20 have been allowed. While a number of minor amendments are being made to dependent claims 13 and 17-19, these amendments merely correct minor errors contained therein. Accordingly, all of these claims are believed to be allowable to the same extent as original claims 1-20. The Examiner's confirmation of this fact is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Original independent claim 21 has been canceled for administrative convenience. Insofar as claim 21 is the only claim which was rejected by the Examiner, the Examiner's rejection is now rendered moot.

Applicant also acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that original claim 22 contains allowable subject matter. In response, Applicant is amending original claim 22 to include all of the limitations of base claim 21 from which original claim 22 depended. Insofar as Applicant has taken great pains to maintain the scope of claim 22, Applicant believes that amended claim 22 is allowable to the same extent as original claim 22. The Examiner's confirmation of this fact is also respectfully requested.

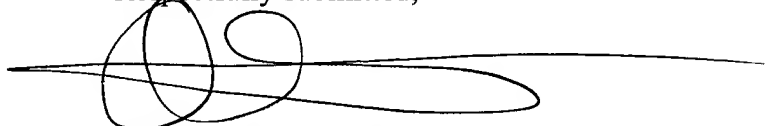
New method claims 23-41 have been added to the Application. Applicant notes that the original Application contained no method claims and that new method claims 23-41 parallel allowed system and apparatus claims 1-20. While these new method claims are not necessarily coextensive in scope with the original system and apparatus claims, the Examiner is asked to note the one-to-one correspondence between the new method and the original system and apparatus claims. For example, new method claim 23 is

based on original system claim 1, new method claim 24 is based on original system claim 2, etc. Applicant, thus, believes that new method claims 23-41 should be allowed for at least the reasons which the Examiner relied on in allowing system and apparatus claims 1-20.

In light of the Amendment and remarks above, Applicant believes this Application, including all of the claims presented herein (claims 1-20 and 22-41), is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner disagrees or believes that direct contact with Applicant's undersigned representative could facilitate allowance of this Application, he is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Dated: September 27, 1999

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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